

WASHINGTON LETTER.

An interesting interview with a West Point Graduate.

Something of the Noted Military Academy—Duties and Studies—A Cadet in Full Uniform and His Room at the Barracks—General Merritt.

WASHINGTON, 14.—The Board of Visitors, appointed by the President a few days since to visit West Point, are beginning to make their arrangements for their visit of inspection to this noted school. "It is the best military institution in the world," said an enthusiastic West Point graduate to your correspondent, talking of the academy and its course of development. "They have their schools in France and England and Germany where the various branches are taught, but here in our West Point Academy we have all the features of military life for the student, so that when he graduates from it he is a thorough soldier, fit for the cavalry or infantry or artillery, as he may prefer."

"What branch of the service is most popular with the graduates of the school?"

"Well, I think the cavalry is the most sought after now. It used to be the artillery, but of late the conditions have changed and the cavalry is more popular."

"How have the conditions changed?"

"In this way: In the artillery few die and none resign. Now, in the cavalry service on the plains, hard work, exposure, Indian fighting and that sort of thing kills them off more rapidly."

"And do you mean to say that this makes the cavalry service the more popular? Do the military cadets so long for death that they have to court it in this way?"

"Oh no, you don't understand at all. They court promotion, not death, and when they see a service in which officers are dying



offhand of them very fast, they see that that is the one for them, for their chances of promotion are much better there, and that is largely what the army officer lives for, you know."

"Why was the artillery more popular heretofore?"

"Probably because it is considered a higher grade of the service. There are more things to learn in preparing for the artillery service, and it is considered a higher rank of the service. So it happens that men who pass highest often get this service. This, perhaps, made it the most popular rank formerly, because all students observed that the brightest men went into it. But it is not so now."

"Are the cadets permitted to select the branch of service into which they will enter?"

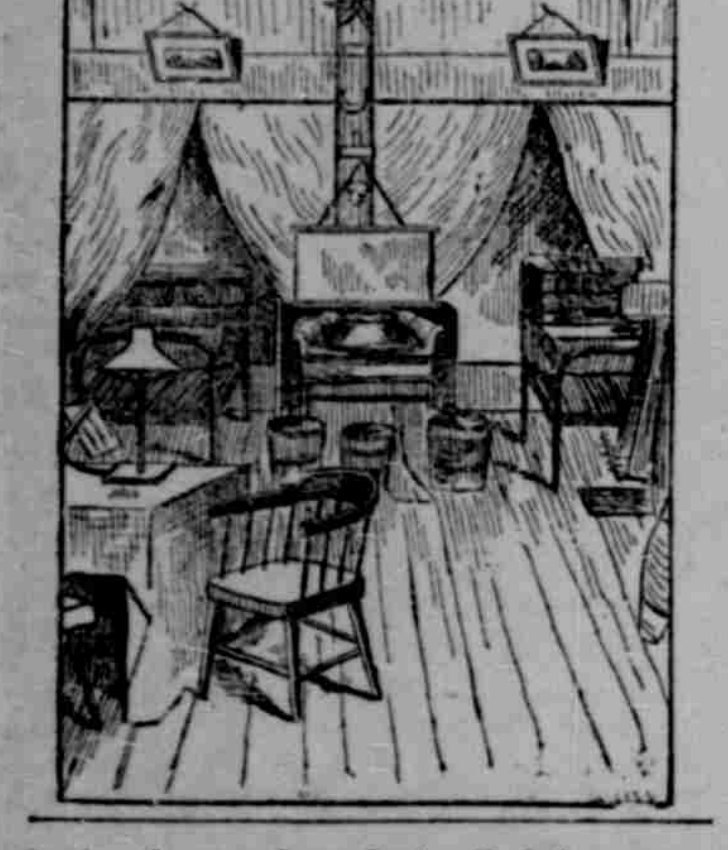
"They are permitted to express a preference in the matter, and this preference is taken into account in distributing them as they are assigned to duty after they graduate. Their wishes are not always gratified, but they usually are where it is practicable."

"Do all cadets enter the army after their course is over?"

"As a rule, yes. They take an obligation on entering upon the military course at this Point to serve four years in the army after their school term is ended. Sometimes they tender their resignation after they get through their term of service, but this is not often the case. They are usually assigned to a position at once in the lowest rank in commission, and given a chance to work up as promotions occur."

"What is the rank to which they are first assigned?"

"That of Second Lieutenant. If they go into the military or infantry they are liable



to stay there perhaps during their four years. If they go into the cavalry and are able to stand the exposure, they are promoted more rapidly."

"And at the end of the four years, what then?"

"Oh, they may go on as officers as long as they like, or they may tender their resignation at once when the term expires. Most of them hold on, for there is a fascination about army life, especially the life of an officer who has had as much as four years experience and promotions, that few of them care to leave it."

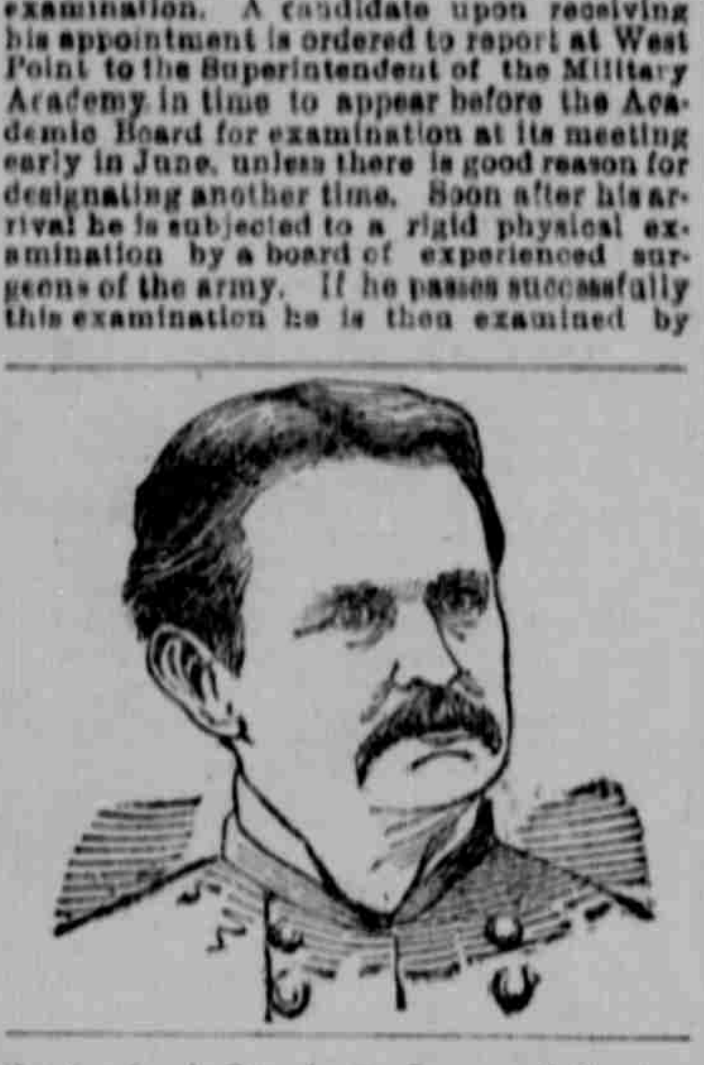
"Do you mean, then, that nearly all of those who enter the Military Academy at West Point become military men for the remainder of their lives?"

"By no means. On the contrary, more than half of the number drop out before the end of the four years' course is reached. It is a very difficult course, you know, and only the best of those who start into it come out. They drop by the way at every examination."

"How many are there in school, and what are the requirements?"

"Each Congressional District Territory is entitled to have one cadet at the Academy. This is also true of the District of Columbia. Ten cadets are appointed at large by the President of the United

States. The appointments, with the exception of these ten, are made by the Secretary of War at the request of the Representative or Delegate in Congress, and the person appointed must be an actual resident of the district or Territory from which the appointment is made. Appointments are required by law to be made one year in advance of the date of admission, except in cases where, by reason of death or other causes, a vacancy occurs which can not be provided for by such appointments in advance. These vacancies are filled in time for the next annual examination. A candidate upon receiving his appointment is ordered to report at West Point to the Superintendent of the Military Academy in time to appear before the Academic Board for examination at its meeting early in June, unless there is good reason for designating another time. Soon after his arrival he is subjected to a rigid physical examination by a board of experienced surgeons of the army. If he passes successfully this examination he is then examined by



the Academic Board. In January following he is subjected to another academic examination, and if he passes this one successfully he receives a warrant as a cadet, and is required to sign articles binding himself to serve the United States eight years from the time of his admission to the academy unless sooner discharged. The age for the admission to the academy is between seventeen and twenty-two years. Candidates must be unmarried, at least five feet in height, and free from any deformity, disease or infirmity which may render them unfit for military service. They must be well versed in reading, writing, including orthography, in arithmetic, and have some knowledge of the elements of the English grammar, of descriptive geography, particularly of this country, and of the history of the United States. No provision whatever is made for the payment of the traveling expenses of either accepted or rejected candidates for admission to the academy, but the pay of a cadet is \$500 per year, beginning with his admission to the academy. He must wear the prescribed uniform, the cost of the outfit for which is about \$80."

"Are the duties so severe, and the studies so hard that more than half of those who enter fall, as you have stated?"

"Yes, the work is very hard. The activities have no break throughout the entire year. Work beginning with the first of September lasts to the end of the year. After a few days devoted to examinations another term begins, which lasts till the 31st of May. Then come examinations which last till about the middle of June, from whence, until the middle of August, the cadets live in camp on the plain. During this period no regular studies are pursued, books being largely thrown aside for practical work, such as surveying, astronomical observations, etc."

"Practical surveying in the field during the season of camping certainly supplements the studies in drawing. The study of military tactics comprises practical instruction in the schools of the soldier, company and battalion, and in artillery and cavalry. With the third year the actual cadet is advanced to the study of natural and experimental philosophy, chemistry, mineralogy and geology, freehand drawing and landscape in black and white, constructive and architectural drawing in ink."

"Practical military engineering added to the work of this period. In the past year the study of military engineering has been the addition of civil and military engineering and the science of war, the Spanish language, international, constitutional and military law, outlines of the history of the world, and technical instruction in ordnance and gunnery and signaling. Along with these and other subjects of book study comes practical instruction in the construction of fortifications and bridges, in laying out and siege works, in astronomy, surveying, military reconnaissance, field topography, signaling and of course tactics. As regards the last named, case is taken each day and the cadets are acquainted with it throughout the whole course of four years. From September to the 15th of June cavalry drill is practiced at West Point with great exactness. The exercises are carried on in the plain when the weather is suitable, and during the severity riding is taught in a hall, erected for the purpose. A perfect set on horseback is secured to the possession of which comprises the performance of surprising feats, as for example, picking up objects from the ground when the horse is at a full gallop without alighting. These exercises in attempts to run one another while on horseback, the use of the revolver and saber under the same circumstances, and in other ways serving the object of making the student in the employment of such instruments of war as are carried by cavalry in actual service. Infantry drill is practiced throughout September, in October, artillery drill. During the month of November, December, and down to March 31, the cadets have a great practice under cover. In the second half of March infantry drill prevails. On April 1 artillery drill begins and lasts throughout the ensuing two calendar months. Infantry drill is then resumed, and a term's with artillery drill to the end of August."

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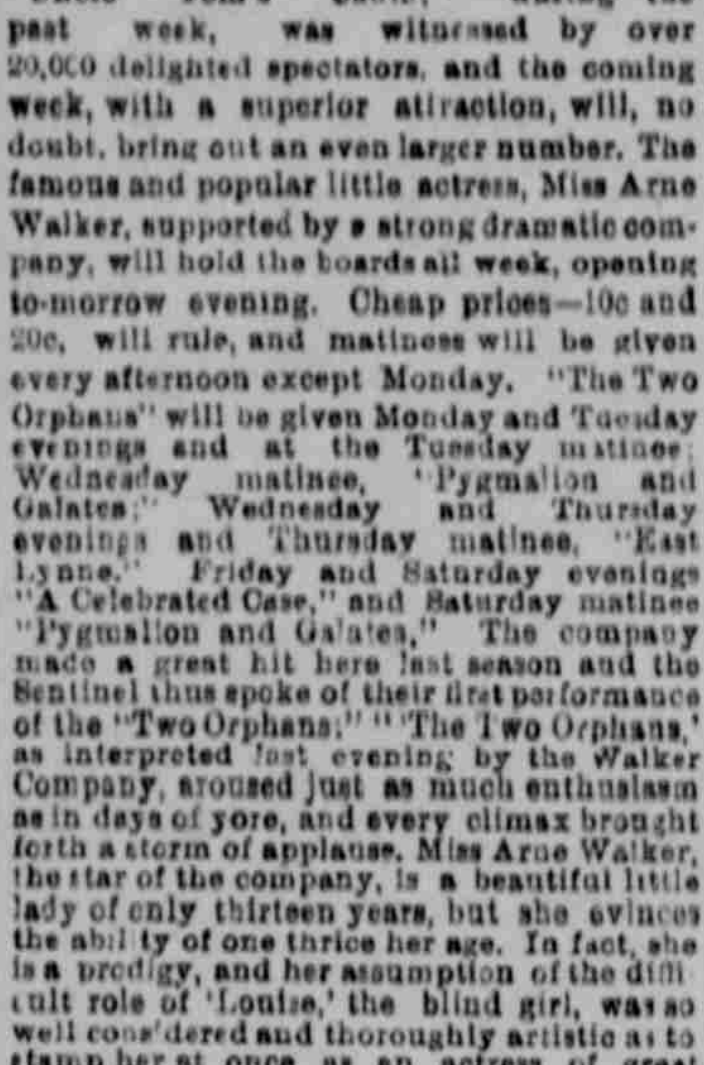
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AMUSEMENTS.

THE ADRIAN COMPANY AT THE GRAND. The overhauling of the company's prices at Manager Dickson's popular theater has stimulated him to renewed exertions to please his patrons, and for the next three weeks he promises to give them dollar shows for a dime—such shows, in fact, as have never before been heard of at these prices. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," during the past week, was witnessed by over 20,000 delighted spectators, and the coming week, with a superior attraction, will, no doubt, bring out an even larger number. The famous and popular little actress, Miss Arne Walker, supported by a strong dramatic company, will hold the boards all week, opening to-morrow evening. Cheap prices—10c and 20c, will rule, and matinees will be given every afternoon except Monday. "The Two Orphans" will be given Monday and Tuesday evenings and at the Tuesday matinee. Wednesday matinee, "Pygmalion and Galatea;" Wednesday and Thursday evenings and Friday and Saturday evenings, "A Celebrated Case;" Saturday matinee, "Pygmalion and Galatea." The company made a great hit here last season and the Sentinel thus spoke of their first performance of "The Two Orphans": "The two Orphans," as interpreted last evening by the Adriatic Company, aroused just as much enthusiasm as in days of yore, and every climax brought forth a storm of applause. Miss Arne Walker, the star of the company, is a beautiful young lady of only thirteen years, but she evinces the ability of one twice her age. In fact, she is a prodigy, and her assumption of the difficult role of 'Louise,' the blind girl, was so well considered and thoroughly artistic as to stamp her at once as an actress of great promise. Not only did she read her lines excellently, but every little detail of stage business was given proper attention. For one so young she certainly has a great future before her. Lucile Allen Walker, as 'Mona Froehard,' was also good, as was Mr. Irving Walker as 'Pierrot.' The company has been greatly strengthened since last season, and embraces, among others, Miss Ella Lattimer, a well-known Indianapolis lady. Such an attraction as this should, and no doubt will, fill the Grand to overflowing at every performance. Remember the prices will be only 10c and 20c.



ATTRACTIONS AT ENGLISH'S THIS WEEK. The well-known specialty company "Rice's Surprise Party" will hold the boards at English's all the coming week, producing that sparkling musical comedy "Fon, or the Fortune of a Dramatic Author." This company appeared at English's last season, and to good business. There has been a change in the cast, but instead of weakening the quality it has made it stronger. Cheap prices will rule at this engagement. To show what our neighbors think of this show, we reproduce the following, clipped from a Cincinnati paper:

"An excellent feature of 'Fon' is the excellent music introduced into the dialogue. 'Adolphus P.' the leading character, was played by Mr. John Jones in a clever manner. He is not a musician, but an actor."

"Charles L. Harris, as 'Mr. John Anthony Bell,' did his work in a thoroughly actor-like manner, and made an excellent comedy character."

"Ben F. Grinnell, as 'Charles Pate,' makes an excellent Englishman, while his song, 'Don't Leave Your Mother,' is a touching and beautiful ballad, and was rendered quite well."

"Fred M. Mayer played 'Tim Smith,' the doubtful character, to perfection, while his recitation was a pathetic gem that elicited the entire audience to tears."

"Miss Hattie Starr, the leading lady support, who assumes the part of 'Sophia Bell,' a character rendered famous by Kate Chatterton, is not only an artist, but a very beautiful and accomplished woman. Her great, melodious voice, which is 'All a Matter of Taste,' was one of the best heard here. She has responded to the choice of the cast, including the excellent Dunn as 'Belle Adams,' Ella Gardner as 'Miss Adams,' and Miss Emma Jones as 'Catherine.'"

"And Master Dunn as 'Sprigins,' a very clever, and well received by the audience."

THE DIME MUSEUM. An entire change in the programme will be made at this popular place on Wednesday this week, and the bill is especially strong. The stage performance will embrace the finest array of talent that has ever appeared at the Museum, and the best attractions that the city has to offer. The bill includes: "The Millionaire," a comedy in three acts, by the author of "The Millionaire," now running in London, in this country next season.

Marsh Adams was born in the year of 1837 at Huntsville, Ala. He made his appearance at the Museum in the year of 1860, and has since been a constant feature in the bill. He is a well-known actor, and has played in many of the best theaters in the country.

Summer concerts by the reorganized Wind Band will soon be the order of the day. Dan DeWolf is now singing the solo tenor parts in the First Baptist Church choir.

The many friends of Miss Lottie Adams are anxious for her to adopt the operatic stage, professionally.

Charles Kiefer commenced a course of study with Professor B. S. Sweeney on Wednesday evening of last week at Lyra Hall.

All of our local musical people were present at the Theodore Thomas concert, and were quite demonstrative in their approval.

Several musical numbers, which were quite enjoyable, were given at the First Baptist Church social last Wednesday evening.

Mr. Clarence Forsythe, after a short rest from his recent hard study in Germany, will take charge of a large piano class in this city.

The regular concert of the Matinee Musicale was well attended by the friends of that organization on last Friday at Plymouth Church.

The sacred concert given by the City Band and Orchestra at Masonic Hall last Tuesday evening, which was much enjoyed by a large and enthusiastic audience.

Miss Anna Wilson, who is well known as a bright and promising young pianist, has prepared several collections of her own composition, which are very highly spoken of.

Mrs. Sue Ingersoll McWilliams, the well-known composer of "Auld Lang Syne" and "The Red" and other beautiful songs, has again located at her old home, Corvinton, Ind.

A city paper announces that Will B. Stone, the pianist, formerly of this city, will return shortly for a visit. This deservedly popular young musician should be tendered a benefit concert by his old friends and admirers during his stay.

In the next two weeks we shall have a surfeit of good things musical. Among those already announced are Mr. Stone's recital, and public concert by Madame Ada Hilde, the Indianapolis Chorus Society, the Mendelssohn Society and the Apollo Quartet.

Two piano recitals will be given at Platt's Music Hall Friday evening, May 22, and Saturday matinee, May 23, by the celebrated pianist, Emil Liebling, of Chicago, who will be assisted by the Apollo Quartet and Mrs. Enrique Miller, of this city.

Mrs. Nettie Johnson made her appearance for the first time since her return from Boston on Wednesday evening at Platt's Hall, it being the occasion of the Knights of Honor concert. Her improvement is a very noticeable one, and her prospect for future success is very bright.

Professor Barnes announces his determination of producing opera and other musicals of a lighter character in the Masonic hall next season. Although Professor B. is himself in favor of works of the heavier

Promptly at the hours announced the all advertised attractions can be presented.

AUDIENCE WILL BE SEATED AT

DREW, SACKETT & CO.'S

WEEK OF MAY 18th.

We Have Ouldone Ourselves and Present



Mormon Giant Triplets, Big Men from Utah.

George Davenport, German Magnet. Eddie Davenport, Singing Magnet. Little Rosina, Swell Magnet. James Reiley, Electric Magnet. William J. Mills, Ventriloquist Magnet. Sam Lang, Eccentric Magnet. Miss Dollie Sharpe, Comedy Magnet.

One Dime ADMITS TO ALL.

some vacant lot in a city shan on the far off plains.

E. J. Nugent, Manager of the Matinee Musicale, is one of the most popular gentlemen in the business.

"The season at English's Opera-house, take it all in all, has not been such a bad one," Manager English smilingly remarked the other day.

Mr. Augustin Daly has acquired the right to produce Pinero's comedy, "The Millionaire," now running in London, in this country next season.

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2:15 and 4 Afternoon 7:30 and 9:10 Nights.

MUSEUM AND THEATER.

the Strongest Show of Any Age!

WYANDOTTE BABY TRIPLETS.

Cute Infants from Michigan.

MELBOURNA, the Tattooed Mariner.

A Living Illustration of the Suffering Man Can Tuffet and Man Kadare.

DON CAMERON, the Missouri Kidgat.

GEORGE LIPPERT,

3-LEGGE MAN!

Only One Ever Born.

LANG & SHARP'S United With RU-SSEL BRO.'S

Magnets.

Charles French, Banjo Meteor. Miss Alice Clark, Dancing Meteor. John Russell, Emerald Meteor. James Russell, Irish Meteor. Herace Waters, Negro Meteor. George Delmore, Clog Meteor. Charles Wilson, Contortion Meteor.

One Dime ADMITS TO ALL.

and purchases of July in changing from one month to the other have considerably widened the premium between the two options.

Provisions have ruled stagnant all the week. Not the least interest appears to be taken in the trade, though there are pointers out that a break in wheat may be expected before long. A few other markets are about the only "shores."

They have been feeding the speculators for months, and as they continue for them steadily decreasing now people to shake everybody out. The fact that hops are selling at the rate of 20,000 to 25,000 per acre is a very discouraging prospect, and no prospect of a let-up, is a discouraging feature to holders of the product.

On the Ball Ground. (Youth's Companion.) An amateur baseball match by skilled performers is for many reasons a spectacle well worth considering. It is certainly a very pretty sight, with the youthful players in neat, gray uniforms dotted the close shaven green, and the ladies in summer brilliancy seated rank above rank on benches like those of a circus, while boys squat on the grass in groves, or lie down with head and heels in the air, or catch a glimpse of the game from some distant corner on a pile of boards higher than the fence.

It is a very striking spectacle when the game is at a critical point, and all eyes are strained to watch the issue of a "capital stroke." We have seen farmers on a load of hay, on a day threatening showers, come to a halt and linger for a whole hour, unable to get away from the fascination of the contest. New England people, who are not gifted in chess, really abandon themselves to applause when a favorite player "saves the game" by a great hit or a splendid catch. They cheer like New Yorkers—almost.

People who think the human race is deteriorating in America do not find cause for complaint in their theory on the ball-ground. Both the strength and the beauty of the human form are exhibited there in as near an approach to perfection as in the arena of a circus, when Pallas and Pankræus sculptured it.

This game calls into the most active exercise every muscle and bone of the body. It also shows off the symmetry of a fine form to great advantage. There are sure to be at least a half-dozen players who are sure to be at least as perfect as those of the accepted Apollo.

The undiminished excellence of the many form we have also an opportunity of noting on the bathing beach at Newport every afternoon at one o'clock. When the aspect of a fine announces that bathing in the natural sea is a bad business, many of the bathers go to professional matches to see a game of professional play. One year there is a great match of "gentlemen against players," in which, by the way, the gentleman sometimes come off victors.

In this country every large town supports its local club of professional ball players who are paid salaries, and spend their whole time in doing nothing but playing ball. If a census were taken this year, probably more than three thousand young men would class their occupation as "base-ball players."

That the business is a bad one for the young men themselves, every one can see. That it has a bad tendency among those who go to professional matches is evident to thoughtful observers. The numerous betting places and "pool-rooms" in the large cities where throngs of men and boys assemble to gamble over the result of ball games are evidence of the effect which professional base ball has upon a class of the community.

There is no better or more exciting sport than base-ball; but let it be an athletic sport as the innocent game, and not a contest between hired men, who may be honest or not. Let the boys train their own bodies and admire physical perfection in others; but let them not make heroes of the professionals who devote themselves to a life which no

boy having high aims in life would choose for himself.

Moreover, the associations of the professional ball-field are more than questionable. Many worthy and respectable men go, it is true, but one can there hear as much bad grammar and profane language, and smell as much vile tobacco smoke in an afternoon, as upon a race course. Play ball and patronize games where the winners are satisfied with the honor of winning. Avoid the vulgar display of skill that is paid for as much as a month, and that almost inevitably leads to betting and kindred vices.

Outdoor Life. (American Home.) Man seems doomed for a hard outdoor life in a mild climate, with just a leaf or two of shelter for a rainy day. His nature will bend for a time to the conventional burdens of an artificial civilization, but replant him on the outside garden of his life and his recuperative forces will rebound with the elastic energy of steel springs relieved. Our fashionable friends would lose caste were they to see their neighbors' second hand clothing, but they will daily try to purify their own blood with their neighbors' second hand or ten-times-used breath, poisoned as it always is, even when exhaled by young and healthy persons. Man, in common with other warm-blooded creatures, generates a surplus of heat within his body. Outdoor sleepers find that no matter how cold the surrounding air may be, if dry, enough of the outflowing heat may be dammed back and retained by suitable clothing to sustain the vital functions in health and comfort. Until domestic art can supply our lungs with cool, first-morged air, in warm rooms the rotaries will be a constant problem to solve. In the meantime out-campers and hotel dwellers will wear the best aerated blood in the land.

Acute rheumatism is an inflammation of the joints, marked by pain, heat, redness and a tendency to swell. It is often one joint to another. With these symptoms apply Salivation Oil, the great pain cure, to the affected parts without delay. Price twenty-five cents a bottle.

Out in a Snowstorm. "There are some things that leave indelible marks on a man's memory. Nothing which happens afterward can efface them. And when memory is perpetually visited by some bodily pain or trouble, it becomes all the more vivid."